

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-01 /054 W

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R 042149Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3571

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8273

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF HIGH-LEVEL EXECUTIVE
PROGRAM VISITORS

REF: STATE 244393

1. MISSION WISHES TO PROPOSE BRIEF NARCOTICS PROGRAM OBSERVATION TOUR IN UNITED STATES FOR COORDINATOR GENERAL OF GOE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT, COLONEL GUSTAVO VACA. VACA IS A CAREER ARMY OFFICER WHO, IN ADDITION TO HIS PRESENT CIVILIAN POSITION, HAS ALSO SERVED ON FACULTY OF ECUADOR'S INSTITUTO DE ALTOS ESTUDIOS, AN INSTITUTION SOMEWHAT ANALOGOUS TO OUR NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE. IN HIS PRESENT CAPACITY, VACA SERVES ON A VIRTUAL PAR WITH THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT'S SUBSECRETARY AND, GIVEN FACT THAT LATTER IS A CIVILIAN WHILE VACA IS MILITARY OFFICER, VACA'S INFLUENCE IS PROBABLY SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER.

2. IN TERMS OF RELATIONS WITH US MISSION, VACA WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHING AND NOW CHAIRS THE MONTHLY US/GOE NARCOTICS MEETING. AT THESE SESSIONS, AS WELL AS IN OTHER DEALINGS, VACA HAS IMPRESSED MISSION OFFICIALS AS COOPERATIVE, ENERGETIC, AND IMAGINATIVE. HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE STUCK ON BUREAUCRATIC FORM OR PROCEDURES AND IS OPEN TO NEW IDEAS.

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3. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, WE THINK VACA WOULD BE AN IDEAL CANDIDATE FOR AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES FOR ONE OR TWO-WEEK NARCOTICS OBSERVATION TOUR SOMETIME DURING CY-75. WE THINK VACA WOULD BENEFIT FROM SEVERAL DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH WASHINGTON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY FOLLOWED BY FILED VISITS INTO DEA AND CUSTOMS INSTALLATIONS. ALTHOUGH NOT BEARING DIRECTLY ON VACA'S PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES, SOME EXPOSURE TO OTHER ASPECTS OF NARCOTICS MATTERS (E.G. DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, ETC.) WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL.

4. MISSION NARCOTICS COORDINATOR HAS DISCUSSED BRIEFLY IDEA OF U.S. VISIT WITH VACA IN GENERAL TERMS, EMPHASIZING OF COURSE THAT MATTER WAS BEING RAISED ON A COMPLETELY TENTATIVE AND NON-COMMITTAL BASIS. VACA RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY ALTHOUGH, GIVEN THE PRESSURES OF HIS JOB, HIS BIGGEST CONCERN WAS WHETHER HE COULD EVER FIND THE NECESSARY TIME TO SPARE FROM HIS DUTIES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO FOREGOING PROPOSAL. IF RESPONSE IS POSITIVE, WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW ACCEPTABLE DURATION OF VISIT (E.G. ONE VS TWO WEEKS), ROUGH PROGRAM OF EVENTS AND WHEN BEST TIME FOR VISIT FROM WASHINGTON'S POINT OF VIEW.
BREWSTER

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